

The counter press

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Martha Mitchell got on the telephone last night and asked a woman in Dallas for her hot tamale pie recipe.

Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) spent the night working as a roving photographer.

Former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson sat on a tall stool autographing copies of his doodles.

It all happened at Washington's first Counter Gridiron party in the gymnasium of Mount Vernon Junior College.

The party was thrown by an ad hoc

group called Journalists for Professional quality, which since 1970 has been pressing the Gridiron Club to drop its sex barrier and admit women to membership.

Martha Mitchell, estranged wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, was by most accounts the hit of the party.

She sat in a pink booth between two enormous mock-up telephones and made calls around the country for all comers at \$5 a throw.

Proceeds from all of the booths at the carnival-style party benefitted the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, which is dedicated to preservation of First Amendment rights.

Songs that sting

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A group of Washington's most distinguished active male newsmen chided the administration last night by singing "With a Little Bit of Luck" President Nixon will resign and labeled Secretary of State Kissinger the Sheik of Araby — "a chronic absentee."

The fun and games took place at the annual Gridiron dinner and show at the Statler Hilton Hotel, sponsored by an exclusive club of 50 of Washington's journalists, and attended by 500 guests including Vice President Ford, members of the cabinet, the Supreme Court, diplomats, members of Congress and others.

Several miles away at the Mount Vernon Junior College gym, the Journalists for Professional Equality, held a counter Gridiron dinner, protesting the policy of barring women members.

The annual gridiron dinner is a spoof on official Washington and the administration.

In one of the skits Kissinger was portrayed as the Sheik of Araby, "a chronic absentee; the sign outside my tent reads 'Diplomat for Rent.' I've coaxed my Arab kith to join B'nai B'rith. My miracle technique makes me one busy sheik."

The skit on Nixon, to the tune of "A Little Bit of Luck," said:

"The Lord above gave us a Richard Nixon,

On him our party's campaign hopes are pinned,

And now we're faced with voting his impeachment, but

With a little bit of luck, with a little bit of luck,

We can keep him twisting in the wind . . ."

The song went on to say that Congress should not rush to judgment and its decision must be constitutional and ended "with a little bit of luck he will resign."